Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Maine Aquatic Organism Passage

Program:	**Ranking Date:**	**Application Number:**
Ranking Tool: Maine Aquatic Organism Passage		**Applicant:**
Final Ranking Score:		**Address:**
Planner:		**Telephone:**
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes O or No O
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes O or No O
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes O or No O
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes O or No O
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes O or No O
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes O or No O
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes O or No O
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes O or No O
3. c.Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes O or No O
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes O or No O
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes O or No O
4. c.Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes O or No O
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes O or No O
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes O or No O
5. b.Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes O or No O
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes O or No O
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes O or No O

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes O or No O
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes O or No O
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes O or No O
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes O or No O
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes O or No O
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes O or No O
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes O or No O

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the State priority category.	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other State level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. 400 points	Yes O or No O
If the application is NOT for a CAP, answer the following questions as applicable. Answer ONLY ONE of 2a, 2b, 2c, or 2d - The Project PRIMARILY Benefits the following Species:	
2. a. Atlantic salmon, federally endangered (80 points)	Yes O or No O
2. b. Alewife, depressed populations (70 points)	Yes O or No O
2. c. Brook Trout, Regional Initiative-Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (40 points)	Yes O or No O
2. d. Other (10 points)	Yes O or No O
Primary Aquatic Objective: Questions 3-6 are to be used to rank a Stream Connectivity Project (i.e., involves removing a full or partial barrier to aquatic organism passage). Question 7 is to be used to rank a Stream Habitat Complexity/Function practice project which does NOT include an aquatic passage barrier (practice 396) scenario. If Objective is to enhance BOTH stream connectivity (remove an exisiting passage barrier) AND to enhance stream habitat complexity/function (e.g., adding large wood or boulder clusters), answer questions 3-5 & 7; skip question 6. If Objective is to ONLY to enhance stream connectivity (remove an existing passage barrier), answer questions 3-5 only; skip questions 6 & 7. If Objective is to remove a barrier (downstream or at a pond outlet) to provide alewife access to historic breeding grounds in a pond or lake, answer questions 3, 4, and 6. Skip questions 5 & 7. Connectivity priority: Choose ONLY ONE of 3a, 3b, or 3c	
3. a. Mapped as a designated Critical Habitat for Atlantic salmon and barrier removal will allow salmon access to suitable upstream spawning and rearing habitat. (90 points)	Yes O or No O
3. b. Alewife is the target species and barrier removal will allow access to historic breeding grounds. (70 points)	Yes O or No O
3. c. Mapped as a Priority Brook Trout watershed and will benefit trout, but salmon cannot access site due to a downstream natural or man-made barrier. If the downstream barrier has a working fishway, or DMR trucks salmon around the barrier, choose 2a instead. (50 points)	Yes O or No O
3. d. Low priority-Does not meet any of the above conditions (-1 points)	Yes O or No O
Aquatic Organism Passage Barrier Severity (e.g., road-stream crossings, remnant log drive dams, side channels, and other man-made barriers): Choose only one of 4a, 4b, or 4c	
4. a. Barrier has been identified or meets Maine Road-Stream Crossing Barrier Survey criteria for a SEVERE fish passage barrier (i.e., perched culvert >6" and/or the structure is at least 50% blocked and	Yes O or No O

affects aquatic passage 100% of the time), OR is an impassible dam without a functioning fishway. (60 points)	
4. b. Barrier has been identified or meets Maine Road-Stream Crossing Barrier Survey criteria for a PARTIAL fish passage barrier (i.e., velocity barrier, low-flow barrier, or perched <6"), OR is a partial barrier not associated with a road-stream crossing (e.g., remnant log drive dam, blocked side channel, debris dam). (40 points)	Yes O or No O
4. c. Road crossing structure has not been identified as a barrier by the Maine Road-Stream Crossing Barrier Survey, but is likely to be a barrier at least during some time of the year. (20 points)	Yes O or No O
Stream Miles Accessible after Barrier Removal-if diadromous species (e.g. alewife) access to a historic breeding pond is the restoration objective, skip and answer Question 6 below. NOTE: All solid blue lines in ArcGIS above the project site(s) count toward total upstream miles available after barrier removal. Dashed blue lines (intermittent) streams are NOT to be counted. Accessible stream mile calcuation stops at the 1st upstream barrier, which is typically the next road-stream crossing. Choose only one of 5a, 5b, 5c, or 5d	
5. a. Greater than 2.5 upstream stream miles accessed after barrier removal (50 points)	Yes O or No O
5. b. 1.5-2.5 upstream stream miles accessed after barrier removal (40 points)	Yes O or No O
5. c. 0.5 to 1.5 upstream stream miles accessed after barrier removal (30 points)	Yes O or No O
5. d. Less than 0.5 upstream stream miles accessed after barrier removal (10 points)	Yes O or No O
Historic Breeding Pond Alewife Carrying Capacity after Barrier Removal. Alewife carrying capacity = surface acres x 235. NOTE: If the currently excluded pond breeding species is NOT alewife, the species will need to be identified and replacement carrying capacity calculation criteria (i.e., fish/surface acres) will need to be supplied by a biologist from the managing agency and provided to the NRCS State Biologist or EQIP Program Manager. Numbers used for ranking below will be changed in proportion to the change in fish/surface acre. Choose only one of 6a, 6b, 6c, or 6d	
6. a. Alewife Carrying Capacity is greater than 300,000 (70 points)	Yes O or No O
6. b. Alewife Carrying Capacity is less than 300,000, but greater than 100,000 (40 points)	Yes O or No O
6. c. Alewife Carrying Capacity is less than or equal to 100,000 (20 points)	Yes O or No O
6. d. Fish other than alewife is the target species (5 points)	Yes O or No O
Stream Habitat Complexity/Function Practice Scenario: Project does NOT include an aquatic passage barrier (practice 396) scenario. Choose only one of 7a, 7b, or 7c.	
7. a. Economical stream habitat complexity enhancement (i.e., large wood placements, remnant log drive dam removal, obstruction removal, boulder clusters) (50 points)	Yes O or No O
7. b. Complex and expensive in stream habitat complexity enhancement (i.e., in stream rock structures)(30 points)	Yes O or No O
7. c. Floodplain connectivity, reparian buffer establishment, streambank stabilixation, or similar offered conservation practices adjacent to a water body that will enhance aquatic environments. (10 points)	Yes O or No O

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the Local priority category.	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other Local level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. 250 points	Yes O or No O
If application is NOT for a CAP, answer the following questions as applicable, Local Working Group Priorities: Choose only one of 2a or 2b.	
2. a. Local Working Group has identified wildlife habitat enhancement as a priority resource concern for the county where the project is located. (50 points)	Yes O or No O
2. b. Local Working Group has NOT identified wildlife habitat enhancement as a priority resource concern for the county where the project is located. (-1 point)	Yes O or No O
NRCS Project Readiness Status: Choose only one of 3a, 3b, or 3c	
3. a. Ready to go, with planning, survey and design, and environmental/cultural resource reviews	Yes O or No O

completed (150 points)	
3. b. Conservation plan, environmental and cultural resource reviews done, but surveys and design need to be completed. (50 points)	Yes O or No O
3. c. Little to no surveys completed and with planning and reviews yet to be done (-1 points)	Yes O or No O
Partner Contribution to Project-a partner is an entity, other than the landowner, which contributes to the project completion: Choose only one of 4a, 4b, or 4c.	
4. a. Significant financial and/or technical assistance is currently in place from Partner's workload (e.g., Partner is lead for ESA consulation, engineering designs, permit acquisition), so NRCS' contribution will be mostly FA (50 points)	Yes O or No O
4. b. Partners are involved, but NRCS will have to contribute significant technical and financial assistance to complete the project. (25 points)	Yes O or No O
4. c. No partner involvement (10 point)	Yes O or No O

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices

Ranking Score

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative:	**Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:**
Signature Date:	**Signature Date:**